

Damascus Radio blasts U.S.

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria's state radio said in commentary Saturday that the United States has lost its prestige in the Middle East because it allowed Israel to draw up its policy in the region. The radio, which generally reflects the government's stand, said the United States appears to have regained interest in the region and "has begun a series of direct and indirect contacts with regional and international powers aimed at finding a way to resolve the region's... moves are tantamount to an implicit recognition that the previous American moves in the area were not in harmony with the realities and developments." The radio commentary said that reviewing U.S. policy in the Middle East shows that Washington "has lost much prestige, respect and credibility since it decided to become a party to the conflicts and it is now unable to assume the role of an honest mediator, a trustworthy chairman or a just arbitrator." This failure, the commentary concluded, was "because the United States placed its policy in the hands of the leaders of Israel who drew up the American policy in the Middle East according to their interests."

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King sends good wishes to U.S. and Venezuela

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent cables of good wishes to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Venezuelan President Jaime Lissi congratulating them on the occasion of their countries' independence day. The King wished the two leaders and their respective countries and people further progress and prosperity.

Cabinet exempts tourist groups from airport tax

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday held a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. Mr. Rifai briefed the Cabinet on the results of His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Turkey and on the outcome of talks that His Majesty had with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim. During the Cabinet's regular session the Council of Ministers approved a decision that exempts tourist groups from paying visa fee and airport departure tax provided those groups consist of at least five people and spend not less than four nights in the Kingdom. The Cabinet also approved a draft law amending the law on extra university fees.

NDP nominates Mubarak for 2nd term as president

CAIRO (R) — The ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) Saturday formally nominated Hosni Mubarak for a second six-year term as Egypt's president. Thousands of Mubarak's supporters demonstrated mostly outside parliament as the NDP's 345 deputies unanimously approved the nomination at a party meeting. A special session of the 448-seat parliament is scheduled for Monday evening, where Mr. Mubarak needs endorsement by a two-thirds majority to face a general referendum to elect the president on October 5. He is expected to be the sole candidate. Mr. Mubarak was elected to succeed assassinated president Anwar Sadat in 1981. He had been Sadat's vice-president. Parliament's speaker Rifaat Muhgoub said at least nine people without known political background had sought nomination for the presidency but they had been rejected for lack of parliamentary approval.

Most Americans believe Reagan is lying

WASHINGTON (R) — Most Americans believe President Reagan is lying when he says he did not know funds from secret arms sales to Iran went to rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government, according to a poll released Saturday. The poll, conducted by the Roper Organisation for U.S. News and World Report magazine, said 57 per cent of those surveyed believe Mr. Reagan is lying about his knowledge of covert aid to the "contra" rebels. A similar result was reported in May by a CBS/New York Times poll.

INSIDE

- Kuwait seeks help to trace mines in Gulf, page 2
- Jordan in aark's anniversary of Hittin Battle, page 3
- Bank of Palestine suffers under Israeli occupation, page 4
- U.S. administration reaches out to audiences, page 5
- Navrtilova takes Wimbledom crown, page 6
- Reagan unveils economic bill of rights, page 7
- Second opposition demands release of detainees, page 8

Waldheim ends visit reaffirming support for Mideast conference

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim returned home on Saturday at the end of a four-day state visit to Jordan, reaffirming his country's support for Jordan's proposal for convening a United Nations-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East.

In a departure statement, the former U.N. secretary general said Israel remained the main obstacle in the way of convening the proposed conference, which is favoured by most of the world community as a vehicle for Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

The Austrian leader told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that it was "difficult to predict if (the conference) will be convened soon because the real problem lies in the Israeli internal division over the conference."

The Jewish state's shaky coalition government is deeply divided on the question of an international conference. The Labour Party of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is in favour of the idea and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc vehemently opposed.

The Austrian president declared that based on his experience

as U.N. chief he was convinced such a conference was "the only means to achieve peace and solve this problem in a just and honourable way."

He urged support for King Hussein's efforts towards peace and said any freeze in the search for Middle East peace was "most dangerous, because nothing escalates the situation of any problem more than stagnation."

"My country and me personally are going to exert all possible effort to support the King's endeavours."

Dr. Waldheim, his wife Elisabeth, and Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock and the accompanying delegation flew home from Aqaba aboard a Royal Jordanian TriStar airliner. Dr. Waldheim, who was seen off by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, thanked his

hosts for the warm hospitality and honours accorded to him, his wife and the accompanying delegation during their stay in the Kingdom.

Dr. Waldheim told Petra his talks with the King had been successful and positive and said their views on how to achieve Middle East peace were identical.

Brushing aside charges that he was involved in war crimes during his World War II service with the German army in the Balkans, the Austrian leader said he had invitations to visit several European, Latin American and Asian countries, as well as Egypt, Syria and Iraq. His press spokesman, Gerold Christian, declined to name the countries saying details would be released later.

Dr. Waldheim said he planned to visit these countries "not just to prove the falsity of what the media have been saying... but because of my duties as president."

In a Friday briefing for Austrian reporters, Dr. Waldheim said it was "just nonsense" to claim he was politically isolated because of the charges.

AP quoted Dr. Waldheim, 68, as saying he looked at his inclusion on a U.S. government "watch list" of undesirable aliens as "a temporary thing." The list bars him from entering the United

States as a private citizen.

On the Jordanian media's condemnation of the allegations, perceived as a Zionist slander campaign, the Austrian leader told Austrian reporters: "I can't tell the Jordanians what they should write about Israel. We want to have good relations with Israel also, but if the other side is not ready for it, that is not from our side."

In the departure statement he made to Petra, Dr. Waldheim said an agreement with the Jordanian side was reached on ways to increase Vienna's contribution to Jordan's development plans. He said both sides discussed ways to increase and expand economic cooperation between the two countries, and that an Austrian trade delegation would be visiting Jordan soon for further talks with officials here on ways to bolster economic relations.

"Our willingness to support Jordanian development projects stems from our conviction that the economy is a basic and important element in allowing any country to overcome its problems," Dr. Waldheim said.

Dr. Waldheim sent a cable to the King upon his departure thanking him, the government and the Jordanian people for their warm hospitality extended during his visit.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor see off Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and his wife upon their departure from Aqaba after a four-day state visit on Saturday (Petra photo)

15 wounded in bomb blast at Qalqilya restaurant

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An unknown assailant planted a homemade bomb Saturday in a crowded restaurant at a West Bank town, wounding 15 Israeli and Palestinian customers.

An Israeli army spokesman said the army imposed a four-hour curfew on the town of Qalqilya, and Palestinian news reports said 50 Arab suspects were arrested.

The spokesman said most of the injured suffered light to moderate wounds and were transferred to hospitals.

Also Saturday, Israeli-military authorities closed for a day the Al Najah University in Nablus, the largest Palestinian university in the occupied territories, the spokesman said. He said the university was closed because of planned student demonstrations.

The army spokesman said the attack occurred at the Fares restaurant in the centre of Qalqilya, a town 50 kilometres northeast of Jerusalem. He had no further details.

occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Qalqilya has been a point of tension since April, when a settler from a nearby Jewish settlement was killed and several others were injured in a petrol bomb attack.

The Palestine Press Service, a news agency that monitors developments in the occupied territories, said that after the explosion border police troops erected roadblocks near the town and arrested some 50 Arab suspects.

After both incidents, armed Jewish settlers rampaged through Qalqilya, destroying property and shouting anti-Arab slogans.

Israel Radio quoted reserve army General Rechavim Zeevi as saying the only way Israel could reach peace with the Arabs was to expel all Palestinians.

The report drew immediate criticism from both sides of parliament, with right-wing nationalists Guelia Cohen saying the time for such a move was "long past."

Left-wing legislator Yossi Sarid called on defence officials to freeze any active military posting for Gen. Zeevi.

Paris police maintain vigil outside Iran's mission; Tehran issues warning

PARIS (Agencies) — Armed French police kept up a vigil at the Iranian embassy here for an apparent attempt to calm the situation.

France had feared the weekly prayers might be the signal for mass demonstrations at the French embassy in Tehran, which is blockaded by Iranian police in retaliation for strict identity checks imposed by French security forces at the Iranian mission in Paris.

Vahid Gordji, listed as an inter-
ceptor but seen by France as the embassy's number two, is hiding in the police-ringed mission to avoid a summons from counter-terrorism specialist Judge Gilles Bouloque.

French officials, matching Iran's silence on the affair, declined comment on Friday night's meeting, which included Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and Justice Minister Alain Chabaud.

On the eve of minister's arrival in Jordan today, Petra issued a statement noting France had been keen on maintaining strong relations with Jordan and the Arab World in general.

It said Jordan, for its part, was also keen on bolstering French-Jordanian cooperation in the general endeavour to promote the cause of peace in the Middle East.

France has voiced its support for Jordan's call for an international Middle East peace conference and reiterated its attitude during visits to France by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Petra pointed out.

It said that France had been playing a leading role within the European Community (EC) in helping to bring about an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the almost seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

In addition, France has continuously denounced Israel's practices as arbitrary and violating international conventions, Petra said.

Ahmad Assi, a Baath Party official, said the Shi'ite Amal

French government to halt this dangerous game and show some sensitivity about the unpredictable consequences of such moves.

France is insisting that Mr. Gordji, who has no diplomatic immunity, give evidence to French investigators. But Iran says he will not leave the sanctuary of the embassy without guarantees he will not be arrested.

French police want to question Mr. Gordji about alleged links with a Frenchman of Lebanese origin, Mohammad Muhajer, who has been charged in connection with bombings in Paris last year which killed 13 people and injured more than 250.

Technically he is summoned only as a witness but legal experts say the fact he has refused to testify could provide grounds for detention.

Twenty-eight French citizens are trapped in the French embassy in Tehran behind a cordon of police but the occupants say they are receiving food and their morale is high.

Fighter said to have survived sea-borne anti-Israel attack

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — One of three commandos who set off to sea on wooden boards to attack Israel on Friday may have survived, pro-Syrian party officials said Saturday.

The Al Saqa Palestinian group and Lebanese Arab Baath Party officials told reporters the unidentified commando had escaped from Israeli-held territory but then disappeared.

Israeli-backed militiamen killed the other two commandos when they landed on a beach in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, Israeli and local press reports said.

They said the operation had been a success because it showed commandos could penetrate behind Israeli lines defended by

radar, gunboats and spotting devices.

The independent An Nahar newspaper said the commandos had only time to fire a few shots after landing before they were killed in a hail of fire from a position of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

"It seems they were intending to land on the Israeli coast, but lost their way and landed in the security zone," An Nahar quoted its correspondent in the zone as saying.

The party officials said the commandos intended to take Israeli hostages to swap for Arab prisoners held by Israel.

Moscow suggests removal of all non-regional warships from Gulf

U.S. silent on Soviet call

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States maintained silence on Saturday over the Soviet call for removal of all warships from the Gulf unless the vessels are from that region. No comment was forthcoming from the White House, State or Defense departments in response to queries on Saturday. One official told Reuters it was doubtful there would be any statement before Monday.

Generally, the United States was preoccupied on Saturday with fireworks, rock concerts and parades throughout the nation in celebration of U.S. Independence Day.

The Soviet Union has a similar arrangement with Kuwait but said the United States was alleging a "Soviet threat" in the region because it is aiming at "estab-

lishing military-political hegemony."

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. hands over flag to be used on first reflagged Kuwaiti tanker

KUWAIT (R) — A U.S. congressman on Saturday handed over an American flag for use on the first Kuwaiti oil tanker to be reflagged as American under a controversial plan to provide the ships protection against Iranian attacks.

Larry Hopkins, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, handed over the flag to Abdul Fateh Al Bader, chairman of the Kuwait Petroleum Shipping Corporation, 11 of whose 22 ships will fly the American flag under the proposal.

Iran has concentrated its attacks on vessels linked with Kuwait because of its support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

The U.S. team, headed by Wisconsin Democrat Les Aspin, is the third to visit Kuwait since an Iraqi missile attack on the U.S. frigate Stark on May 17 which

killed 37 crew. Baghdad said the attack was a mistake.

U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton was quoted Saturday by the Kuwaiti press as affirming the United States would go ahead with the reflagging.

Mr. Quainton also was quoted as saying Washington would consider requests to escort ships of other GCC member states.

He said the administration of President Ronald Reagan fully shared Kuwait's views that ensuring freedom of navigation in the international waters of the vital Gulf oil region is the responsibility of the international community.

Kuwait seeks help to trace mines in Gulf

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has asked some "brotherly and friendly" countries to send minesweepers to help trace seamounts off its coast, a Kuwaiti government minister said in an interview published Saturday.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told the daily *Al Siyassah*: "Kuwait has asked some brotherly and friendly states to send minesweepers to help search for any mines in its territorial waters."

Four merchant ships have been holed by mines in a channel leading to Kuwait's oil port of Al Ahmadi since mid-May.

Regional shipping sources blame Iran for laying the mines in retaliation for Kuwait supporting Iraq in the Gulf war.

Sheikh Sabah said: "Kuwait has the right to ensure the safety of its territorial waters and to take all measures to maintain the security of its water."

He did not name the countries approached. But the U.S. State Department said last month that Saudi Arabia — which has four

and-mine vessels — had offered

Shipping sources say the Soviet Union, which has leased three tankers to Kuwait to help protect the emirate's oil export lifeline, has up to three minesweepers in the Gulf.

The United States was one of several countries in the running for an order, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The naval officers went along to provide technical advice on the vessels, of a type used by the Dutch navy.

The Netherlands was one of

Iran's intelligence agency orders

the kidnappings of Western hostages by Islamic extremists in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Iranian President

Ali Khamenei denied his nation

was involved in the June 17 kidnap-

ping of an American journal-

ist in Lebanon, and accused Presi-

dent Reagan of implicating Iran

"to achieve his aims in the Gulf."

He was referring to Mr.

Reagan's plan to provide U.S.

navy protection to 11 reflagged

Kuwaiti oil tankers against Iran-

ian attacks in the Gulf.

The Mujahedeen, Arabic for

"holy warriors," says the kidnap-

ping in Beirut are ordered

directly by the 8th Branch of

Iran's Information Ministry.

Although it is called the Informa-

tion Ministry, parts of the orga-

nisation in fact serve as the coun-

try's intelligence apparatus

known as Savama, the Mujahed-

een say.

The 8th Branch controls the

Tehran offices of the funda-

mentalist Shi'ite Hezbollah

organisation, said an official of

the Mujahedeen, who spoke on

condition of anonymity.

He said there is no sign on the

building to identify the occu-

pants.

The information on the office's

activities was collected by Mu-

jahedeen agents inside Iran, said

the official.

The latest such order resulted

in Glass' kidnapping, the Mu-

jahedeen says.

The director of the Tehran

office, Haj Hossein Shamji, was

sent to Lebanon in early June for

a 10-day mission, possibly to

arrange the Glass abduction, the

organisation said.

The suspected links between

Tehran and the shadowy groups

claiming to have kidnapped 25

foreigners in Lebanon over the

past two years have never been

fully proven.

On Wednesday, NBC Televis-

ion quoted U.S. officials as

saying they have "conclusive evi-

dence" that Glass' abduction

was ordered by Iran.

The Hezbollah, which means

Party of God, is a group of Shi'ite

Muslim extremists believed to be

the umbrella group for the fac-

tions that have claimed responsi-

bility for most of the abductions.

Nine Americans are among those

still being held.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cooperative society head visits Britain

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Mureid Al Tal, director general of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation left for London Saturday on a week-long visit to the United Kingdom. During the visit, Mr. Tal will familiarise himself with the work of British cooperative societies and their activities. He will also hold talks with British officials on the prospects of British contribution towards the development of Jordanian cooperatives.

VTC chief returns from int'l panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Muhamer Al Masri returned to Amman Saturday after participating in an international conference on vocational training held in East Berlin. The ten-day conference discussed modern trends in vocational training, the effect of education on development, international cooperation in promoting development, and technology employed in technical and vocational training. Dr. Masri said. He said that he presented a number of working papers featuring Jordan's experience in vocational training. Delegates from 64 nations took part in the conference which ended last week.

Registration ends for Parliament seat

AMMAN (I.T.) — Registration of candidates for the vacant Parliament seat for the Bethlehem constituency ended Saturday. The seat became vacant following the death in January of Bethlehem deputy, Hanna Bamoush. Lower House of Parliament sources said that the voting for a new deputy will take place during the Lower House session on Tuesday. At least eight candidates have privately declared their intention to contest the seat.

'Dental Day' to be held in W. Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) is organising a "Dental Day" in the occupied West Bank on July 24, in cooperation with the JDA's branch in the occupied territory. A JDA spokesman said that the event include lectures on dental surgery and other matters related to the dental profession. Dr. Wafid Marqa, JDA president, will be among the dentists to take part in the event. The JDA, the spokesman said, has so far set up 14 dental clinics in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, offering dental services free of charge.

Jordan to take part in education panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting for under secretaries of Arab ministries of education scheduled to be held in Tunis on July 11. During their three-day meeting, participants will study and evaluate Arab educational systems and their suitability for new developments in the Arab community. Ministry of Education Secretary General Dr. Radi Al Waqfi will head Jordan's delegation to the meeting.

Archives department to hold book show

AMMAN (Petra) — Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) will hold a book exhibition on the sidelines of the Jash Festival activities. The exhibition will include selections of rare pictures and documents which highlight the life of His Majesty King Hussein, in addition to a number of speeches and addresses he delivered on several national, pan-Arab and international occasions.

New techniques make desert bloom

By John Rice
The Associated Press

MUWAQQAR — Rain is sparse here, and the little that falls usually pounds off the hard soil and floods down rocky gullies into the vast desert beyond.

In most parts of the world, this barren terrain 20 miles (30 kilometers) southeast of Amman would pass for desert. In water-starved Jordan, researchers consider it potential farmland.

Agricultural scientists, aided by a grant from the European Community, have turned a 200-hectare (490-acre) site into an experimental farm for cereal grains, fruit trees and forage. If they succeed, "we would make a revolution in agriculture in Jordan," said Theil Oweis, an irrigation specialist from the University of Jordan.

Thirty per cent of Jordan's land, like the soil around Muwaqqar, receives between 100 and 200 millimetres (4 to 8 inches) of rain a year. Virtually none of it is now used for crops.

"One fourth of that land would be a lot more than all the land irrigated in Jordan," Oweis said.

Even much less would be a crucial improvement for Jordan, which spends badly needed foreign currency to import about 80 per cent of its wheat and barley, 70 per cent of its peas and beans and much of its meat each year.

To harness wasted floodwaters, the researchers have built three small, cheap dams in a shallow gully that drains some 30 square

kilometres (12 square miles).

The earthen dams, which cost JD 2,000 (\$6,000) to build, hold 60,000 cubic metres (15.8 million U.S. gallons or 13.2 million imperial gallons) of water.

Oweis said it would cost JD 30,000 (\$90,000) to buy that much even if pipes were available.

He said the researchers expect four or five storms a year to fill the dams.

A portable diesel pump feeds water to sprinklers which tosses the water over green shoots of wheat and barley. They are being watered at different rates and nourished with different fertilizers to determine which work best.

Sheets of plastic and wax guide rainfall to individual almond trees, chosen because they are resistant to drought.

Low rock barriers block a nearby wash to slow the water flow and hold moisture for plants behind them.

Imported forage crops are being tested in dry ground against local varieties to see which will best survive to nourish grazing sheep.

The methods are generally simple and cheap, the sort of things a desert farmer might be able to afford and build.

Students working at the site said the sprinklers amazed local tribesmen, who came to inquire if the government had extended water lines to the area, and to ask if land nearby was for sale.

"But, in the long run, the world's resources are not enough," he added.

"We're not going to drill any wells," Oweis said. "The ground

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Jordan Times

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On the right track

AS we welcome wholeheartedly the new overtures from Western capitals towards Damascus, we pause to express appreciation of the series of initiatives, contacts and decisions which have led to the positive developments in Western-Syrian relations. There is no doubt that there has been a multitude of actions which have culminated, first, in ending the U.S. ban on high-level talks and contacts with Damascus and then in moves by other European capitals towards patching up differences with Syria.

To be sure, there were changes of attitudes on both sides of the fence. While Damascus took a series of decisions commencing with a more determined effort to help ease the hostage issue in Lebanon and closing down the offices of the notorious Abu Nidal group, the Western capitals, likewise, began a process of changing their respective attitudes towards dealing with the Syrian government. And as the chemistry of the concurrent and corresponding actions and reactions began to take shape, a positive interaction has followed, promising to bring to fruition successful results for the high-level contacts between the Western capitals on one hand and Damascus on the other.

In this context, one can hardly overlook the role played by His Majesty King Hussein who took it upon himself to make clear the necessity of understanding and cooperation among all parties concerned with the situation. Jordan, of course, does not feel that whatever has been accomplished so far is enough to bring peace and stability to this troubled part of the world. But, His Majesty's relentless efforts at lessening tensions and constructing bridges of understanding, among not only Arabs and the international community but also among the big powers and the Arab states themselves, have put us on the right track towards our goals.

These efforts are likely to continue and go from strength to strength with each indication of positive change. This is not to say, however, that Jordan alone can achieve political miracles in weeks and months. It takes the mutual interest and good will of everybody concerned to do their part in order to stop the wars, the bloodshed and the suffering of the peoples of the area.

Much has still to be done before peace and stability can return to Palestine and the Gulf and other parts of the Middle East. But at least the signs are there that something positive is happening whether in U.N. corridors or through bilateral contacts in various capitals of the world. We keep our hands crossed as we wait for more of the same in the weeks to come.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Another Israeli atrocity

ISRAEL'S war minister Yitzhak Rabin has given his consent to a plan to tap a major new water supply in the occupied West Bank. This water is badly needed for drinking and agricultural purposes in the Arab areas. We realize that Israel maintains its occupation of the whole of Palestinian land and continues its repressive measures against its people. This is in fact the major concern of the Arab Nation at the moment. But focusing our attention on this Israeli step is in fact our aim of exposing Israel's far-reaching objective of starving the Arab population by denying them the means for growing food and for drinking. This Israeli move is in reality a new method for turning Arab lands into arid regions and making it difficult for the Arabs to continue living in their occupied territory and so forcing them to leave. This repressive act is to be added to the long list of Israel's atrocities exercised against the Arabs and which include among other things demolition of Arab homes, detention of Arab citizens without trial, building settlements on confiscated Arab land and depriving the Palestinians of their human rights. Israel, as known to all, holds on to all the territories it occupied since 1948 and has no intention of giving up land or reaching a peaceful settlement with the Arab countries. There are no illegitimate moves and inhuman practices committed by the Israeli side which clearly conform to Zionism's long-term objectives and designs.

Al Dustour: Israel denies Arabs their water

FOLLOWING 20 years of occupation rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during which continued repressive measures have been committed against the Arab population, Israel is now turning its attention to new techniques designed to force the Arab inhabitants to abandon their homeland. The Israeli authorities are now planning to steal the artesian waters of the West Bank in an area near Bethlehem, totally in disregard of all international principles and laws. The stealing of water from that Arab area is designed to deprive the Arabs from an essential means of sustenance and existence. The water is to be drawn to Israeli occupied territories where Jewish settlements have been set up, a step in line with the long term objectives of world Zionism. What is more disgusting is the fact that the plan is being implemented through an American firm employing United States technology, at a time when the U.S. administration claims that it knows nothing about the subject and reaffirms that it is concerned with and will work towards improving the living conditions of the Arab population under Israeli rule. Instead of exercising a positive and even-handed policy in the Middle East, and instead of creating an atmosphere conducive to peace, the United States turns a blind eye to Israel's atrocities and violations of human rights.

Sawt Al Shaab: Ending Gulf war

A draft resolution submitted to the U.N. Security Council on the Gulf war could present the world community with a golden chance for ending the seven-year-old conflict between Iran and Iraq. This resolution calls for the withdrawal of all forces to international boundaries and an immediate cessation of hostilities. If this resolution is passed the Iranian authorities will find themselves forced to abide by the international call for peace despite a declared intention of pursuing the war which gained them nothing. The Iranians who have been dealt severe blows in the battle ground and who have tasted one defeat after another had little been trying to involve Kuwait in the conflict and violating the principles of hostilities with the result of drawing superpowers like the U.S. into the Gulf zone. The Security Council's resolution would also bring an end to terrorist activities, assassinations and other crimes of various committed abroad against opponents of the Islamic Republic. The latest Iranian action in this respect is now being prosecuted against France in the form of besieging the French embassy in Tehran. This action is aimed at mobilising the Iranian people to pursue a struggle against the world communists in general and the Iranian communists in particular.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Bank of Palestine suffers under Israeli occupation

MAIL carried to us the annual report and financial statements of the Bank of Palestine for 1986. The Bank of Palestine is an all-Arab Bank operating in Gaza under Israeli occupation and within the rules, regulations, and conditions imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities. The bank was established to provide banking services, badly needed by the embattled population of the Gaza Strip.

However, the audited financial statements indicate that the bank had a near impossible mission as evidenced by the figures displayed in the balance sheet and profit and loss account:

— After several years of operation, the total assets of the bank did not exceed \$7.3 million, a negligible amount in a region of 550,000 citizens deprived from any banking facilities.

— Deposits together with all other credit accounts were just below \$5.8 million an indication of the failure of the bank to attract a substantial portion of the domestic savings.

— Total loans and advances extended by the bank as of December 31, 1986 was only \$2.8 million, an amount hardly sufficient to light a candle in the overall darkness of military occupation.

— The bank held almost half of its total assets in the form of

liquid cash or deposits with other banks. The bank was apparently unable to invest these funds in any profitable way. It is feared that the bulk of this idle liquidity was kept with Israeli banks. In that case the Israeli banks would be in possession of a larger share of the available funds than the total borrowers from Gaza itself, and the bank would be falling in the trap of having to deal with the enemy.

— The bank was able to make money in 1985, albeit a token amount of \$35,000. However, the bank returned to losses in 1986 to the tune of \$220,000, around 15 per cent of its paid up capital.

In summary, the Arab bank, "Bank of Palestine Ltd," was not able to provide the needed services it was intended to provide, neither to its shareholders nor to the business sector and the community at large.

The Israeli occupation, more than any foreign occupation, has been careful to ensure that any Arab effort to improve the quality of life of Arabs under military occupation should fail, and that is the only way for Arabs was and still is: Out.

The bank's board of directors' report included an unreserved attack on Arab states, especially on the Economic and Social Arab Council that convened in Amman in 1986 and was attended by

Arab ministers of finance and agriculture, together with the secretary general of the Arab League, to discuss Arab food security. The council was described in the bank's report as a body that no one felt existed, and its deliberations were labelled as "non-sense arguments about the miserable economic situation of the Arab states resulting from misguided financial policies which made the Arabs the ridicule of the world," the report said.

This "daring" attack reminds us of the heated debate between an American and a Soviet who were boasting about the freedom of expression in their respective countries. The American bragged that he can stand in the courtyard of the White House and say openly that the U.S. president was a traitor and that no authority would prosecute him for that. The Soviet, equally proud, said that he too could stand in the heart of the Red Square, right opposite the Kremlin and say in loud voice that the U.S. president was a traitor, without the slightest fear.

Well, we in turn say that the Israeli occupation is bad and tyrannical, a statement which the Bank of Palestine board of directors' report did not, or could not say in plain words, but the financial statements of the bank were more revealing and condemning.

Palestinian villagers fight for their fathers' homeland

By Adam Tanner
Reuter

BIRAM — Riad Gantous often brings his two children to visit his parents' home in Biram, even though it now lies in rubble, like all the houses of this former Christian Arab village near the Lebanese border.

Tall weeds grow among the old stones of the Riad family house. Pine trees surrounded the area, and other than snakes, there are few signs of life among the ruins.

Israel forcibly evicted Biram's residents on "Security" grounds during the 1948 war, promising them they would be able to return within days.

In 1952, the government demolished the village houses, leaving only the churches and two buildings standing, although the supreme court ruled that year that the residents had a right to

return to their homes.

Almost four decades later, the Israeli authorities are finally considering allowing the villagers to go back.

Israeli Arabs are demanding that the state belatedly rectify what they say was a cruel injustice.

But some Israeli Jews fear that allowing the Arabs to return to Biram would create a dangerous precedent and trigger a spate of demands to restore lands taken from displaced Arabs in 1948.

Despite the passage of time, Biram's former residents and their children remain emotionally tied to their village.

"Our fathers left homes and land here, and the Israeli government took this from us," says Gantous, a member of Al Awda (the return), a group campaigning for the restoration of the village. "They must return the homes and land to the people."

Like many fighting for their village, the 35-year-old Gantous has never lived in Biram, but that does not lessen his desire to reside there. "My ancestors died here. My family from the beginning was here, from more than 1,000 years ago," he said. "I too want to die in Biram."

Moshe Arens, the minister in charge of Arab affairs, recently submitted a plan to rebuild Biram and Ikrat, a similar village 20 km away.

Arens proposed partially rebuilding the villages on their former sites, but as some of the land is now farmed by Jewish settlements, villagers would be compensated with additional land nearby.

The proposal has met strong opposition from the right-wing Tehiya Party, and even Arens' own Likud Bloc is not united behind it.

Commentator Yoel Marcus

summed up the misgivings among Israelis when he wrote in the daily Haaretz: "By virtue of recognising their right to return to their village... we will find ourselves admitting to our sins and crimes, and not returning their fields will look like daylight robbery."

"There are plenty of Arabs in Israel with claims, and not one of them is personally guilty of having fled or been expelled. The moment we admit we erred, and recognise the residents' right to return to their former place of residence, we will perhaps not thereby have created a legal precedent — though this too is uncertain — but we will certainly have created a political precedent," he said.

Marcus claimed that the Arabs committed the first injustices against the Jews in Palestine, and said he did not feel any sense of guilt toward the villagers of

Biram and Ikrat.

"Let us not create with our own hands a precedent to be used against us," he wrote.

Residents of Biram and Ikrat argue that their problem is unique because they did not oppose Israel in the 1948 war and were promised that they could soon return.

The Arens' plan does have its supporters. A recent Jerusalem Post editorial wrote that: "Even the rendering of partial justice would constitute an overdue repayment of a debt of honour to Palestinians whose only fault was their loyalty to Jewish friends at a time of great peril."

The villagers are wary of trusting the latest moves to restore them to their ancestral homes.

Many Israeli politicians, including former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, have advocated the return of the two villages for decades, but nothing has

been done.

"They play on the issue because they need the Arab votes," Gantous' brother Kamal, another member of Al Awda, says. The 700,000 Arabs form some 15 per cent of the Israeli electorate.

Many former Biram residents now live prosperously in cities across Israel, but Kamal maintains: "You cannot find anyone that will not return."

The former residents of Biram and their descendants now number about 2,000.

Members of Al Awda meet weekly to discuss political strategy, and three days a year they camp in Biram with the government's permission to work on small repairs.

In July, their children will spend a week there so that Biram's next generation will learn the history and culture of their village.

Over wine and hors d'oeuvres they talk of ending apartheid

By Jonathan Sharp
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Over wine and hors d'oeuvres in a genteel suburb of Johannesburg, a group of whites briefed reporters recently how they plan to fight apartheid.

The topic is explosive in a country whose white-led government declares that apartheid race segregation is a thing of the past but whose black majority say their every living moment is testimony to its continued vigour.

The language that circulated in the comfortable suburban living room, punctuated by the popping of corks and the crackle of a wood fire, was hardly revolutionary.

The hosts were representatives of South Africa's white liberals, people who shun extreme solutions to South Africa's ills and occupy a middle-ground between the polarised forces on either side of the black-wide divide.

The occasion was a briefing for reporters on a newly-formed organisation called the Five Freedoms Forum, a coalition of civil rights groups which have varied goals but are united in their abhorrence of apartheid.

Launched formally in March, the forum — the five freedoms are freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of speech and association, freedom of conscience and freedom from discrimination — acts as an umbrella for about 10 white anti-apartheid organisations with an estimated total membership of 50,000.

Among the better known members of the forum is Black Sash, a white women's organisation most

recently active last month when its members stood at street corners in Johannesburg with placards condemning the year-long state of emergency granting the government wide powers to curb political unrest.

Also prominent is the Detainees' Parents Support Committee, which has monitored and helped thousands of blacks detained without trial under the emergency.

At first glance the cause of South African liberals does not look promising: They took a beating at a whites-only election in May when the ruling National Party, architect of apartheid, swept back to power and voters swung to the right.

The anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party lost ground and was replaced as the biggest opposition group in parliament by the Conservative Party, which is so right wing it thinks the National Party is hopelessly weak-kneed.

Realistically, what can a pressure group like the Five Freedoms Forum, which has no formal representation in parliament or in other institutions of the country's power structure, hope to achieve?

The forum has already discovered that it is not welcomed by the government. President P.W. Botha described the group as a "dangerous coalition" even before it was launched.

Several right-wing politicians have branded it as a cover for the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla group, the main black nationalist movement sworn to topple Pretoria.

The forum has forged links with the two leading black anti-apartheid organisations, the United Democratic Front (UDF).

"It's really quite flattering," said Webster. "We didn't realise we were rated so highly on their black list."

Reagan, who once called the Soviet Union an "evil empire," has often cited Communist expansion as a rationale for foreign policies that rely on the assertion of military power. Many critics say he is doing it again in the Gulf.

The Soviet Union has been increasingly active in the Middle East.

Its proposal for an international peace conference is being pursued as viable by Israel, Jordan and the United States, which once wanted to keep Moscow out of the peace process but now says it could play a constructive role.

Moscow is the main arms supplier to Iraq. It has recently established diplomatic relations with Oman and the United Arab Emirates and has made inroads with other Arab states, such as Saudi Arabia, according to U.S. analysts of the region.

Nevertheless, Judith Kipper, a Middle East expert with the private Brookings Institution, said: "The Soviet presence (in the Gulf) is so minimal that it's not a threat to anybody."

Reagan's choice of Bork may alter U.S. Supreme Court direction

By James Vicini
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's choice of Judge Robert Bork for the Supreme Court may dramatically alter the high court's direction by creating a conservative majority sympathetic to Reagan's social policies.

Legal experts agree the nomination of Bork, a staunchly conservative appeals court judge, as the 10th justice in U.S. history represents Reagan's best opportunity to move the court to the right and leave behind a judicial legacy.

If confirmed by the Democratically controlled Senate, Bork would replace the retiring Lewis Powell, a moderate who often cast the decisive vote when the nine-member court was deadlocked between liberal and conservative factions.

But Fein and other experts said the Rehnquist court failed to produce the dramatic shift to the right the Reagan administration had hoped for.

In the court's term that just ended, the liberal bloc led by Justice William Brennan scored important victories, upholding affirmative action for women in the work place and striking down a law that required the teaching of "creation science"

Navratilova defends Wimbledon crown for record sixth consecutive time

Lendl, Cash in for a decisive clash today

WIMBLEDON, England (Agencies) — Martina Navratilova claimed a place in history and protected her spot at the top of women's tennis with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Steffi Graf for the women's championship at Wimbledon.

The victory gave Navratilova a record sixth consecutive Wimbledon title and eighth overall. It also ended Graf's victory streak at 45 matches.

Title-holder Navratilova won a record-equaling eighth Wimbledon women's singles championship when she took a surprisingly swift 69 minutes to beat 18-year-old West German Steffi Graf.

Graf, the second seed, who beat Navratilova in the French Open last month, had stood poised to deposit the 30-year-old American not only as Wimbledon champion but as the world's number-one ranked women's player.

In the event, though, the tradition

strengths of Navratilova's game — her powerful serve and fierce volleying — prevailed.

Graf managed only one break point on the champion's serve, in the first game of the second set, and although she astonished the crowd with the ferocity of some of her groundstrokes, was never able to take control of the match.

Navratilova, whose triumph earned her a prize of £139,500 (\$198,000), has now won 41 singles matches in a row at Wimbledon, a feat matched only in recent times by Sweden's Bjorn Borg, who was men's champion from 1976 to 1980.

Graf's most spirited resistance came at the end of the first set

when she saved six set points. Navratilova clinched victory — and her sixth championship in a row — on her second match point with a punishing serve to Graf's forehand which the young German reached but could not quite lift over the net.

Graf never has won Wimbledon and claimed her first Grand Slam tournament victory just last month.

After that victory on clay, Graf said she was not yet ready to win Wimbledon, needing more work on her grass-court game of serve, approach and volley.

But the 18-year-old, seeded second behind Navratilova, is red hot.

Ivan Lendl, number 1 everywhere in the world except on the grass courts of Wimbledon, tries to make the ranking universal Sunday when he faces Australian Pat Cash for the men's cham-

pionship.

Lendl, who grew up as a clay court player, has been on a mission to master grass under the coaching of Australian Tooy Roche. If he finally conquers Wimbledon, he will deprive Australia of its first title in 15 years.

Cash is his country's first finalist here since 39-year-old Ken Rosewall was defeated by Jimmy Connors in 1974, the first of two Wimbledon crowns for Connors.

Cash ended any hopes of a third this year with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 wipe out of the American in the semi-finals, following Lendl's more difficult 3-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-4 victory over Stefan Edberg.

Lendl has reached the finals in five of the last seven Grand Slam tournaments, winning four of them, two French and two U.S. Opens. He also won the French Open in 1984.

Wife reported charging Hagler with doping, physical abuse

BOSTON, Mass. (R) — The estranged wife of former World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight champion Marcellous Marvin Hagler was reported to have charged him with cocaine- and alcohol abuse, following his upset loss last April to Sugar Ray Leonard.

The Boston Herald, quoting local television station WNEV, said Friday that Hagler's bitter loss to Leonard brought on substance abuse and deep depression.

Hagler's wife, Bertha, is insisting that her husband seek help in fighting his alleged drug abuse before she takes him to the

station reported.

It added that Mrs. Hagler was granted a protective restraining order last week against her husband after she charged that he had physically harmed her and that she lived "in fear of him."

Hagler's co-manager, Pat Petrone, said Thursday night that he was "shocked to hear it (allegations of drug abuse). I don't know what's true or what isn't true. I have no way of knowing," the newspaper quoted Petrone as saying.

Hagler, 32, could not be reached for comment.

Pop-music tycoon Branson and Swedish-born Lindstrand escaped serious injury and spent the night at a hotel in nearby Kilmarnock with their families after hospital examinations.

Nigel Tasker, secretary of the French-based aeronautical federation, said Branson and Lindstrand had "undoubtedly reached Europe."

But he added: "There are rules

Balloonists Branson, Lindstrand go into Guinness book despite near-tragic end

that the balloon must remain under control at the point of landing."

In a BBC Radio interview Saturday, Tasker said the balloonists would have to make an official claim of the record. It would then have to be accepted by British officials before being considered by the federation, he said.

Miss Nicholas said the two

organisations have different ways of monitoring and the federation may require "finer details on the aviation front" for their records.

As far as Guinness is concerned, she said, "if everything is monitored to time, down to the last second, and it has touched down, then yes it will make a record."

Third was last year's runner up, the French-trained mare, Trip-tich, while Bellotto, which finished third in the Derby, came home fourth.

With three furlongs to go, Reference Point looked a near cert-

ain winner as Cauthen held a clear lead. The three-year-old colt outpaced the two pacemakers in the early stages of the 2-kilometre-race and was joined by Moto with two furlongs (0.4 kilometre) to go.

It was less clear, however,

whether the two British adventur-

ers will meet the stricter stan-

ards of the Federation Interna-

tionale Aeronautique, which de-

cides aviation record.

Their balloon, Virgin Atlantic

Flyer, briefly touched down in

Ireland on Friday before bounc-

ing out into the North Channel

between Ireland and Scotland

where the two were forced to

jump from the gondola during an

out-of-control touchdown.

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Arab athletic meet to begin without array of stars

ALGIERS (R) — The fifth Arab Athletics Championships begin here on Monday robbed of the glamour and world class of Morocco's Said Aouita and an array of impressive athletes.

Sources with the Moroccan team said Aouita, who has the world marks for the 5,000 and 1,500 metres would not take part because of commitments on the European circuit.

"The little chance of his coming here was gone by his failure on Thursday to break Briton Steve Cram's world record for the mile," said a teammate.

Aouita, in a Helsinki meet, finished an agonizing 44th of a second outside Cram's mark, but his time of 3:46.76 minutes was the year's best over the distance.

Bahrain's Ahmed Hamadah, the Asian 400 metres hurdles champion, would also miss the championships, previously scheduled to begin Sunday but put off by one day because of Algeria's celebrations of its 25th independence anniversary.

Bahraini team officials said Hamadah would stay away because of a back injury he sustained during training last month.

Other athletes to miss the championships, expected to bring together athletes from 15 Arab countries, are Sudan's veteran middle-distance star Khalifa Omar, the African and world cup 1,500 metre champion, and Somalia's Ahd Bile Ahd, another middle-distance specialist.

But Aouita's compatriot and fellow gold medallist Nawal Moutawakil should be of some consolation to the organisers, and a great great deal more to the Moroccan squad here.

Atlantis on Saturday in a hot-air balloon after an accident with the propane fuel tanks at their Canadian launch site.

Branson, the 36-year-old head of the Virgin Airlines and recording empire, said he and balloon designer Lindstrand jumped into the sea after running into low clouds over northern Ireland and trying unsuccessfully to put down on a beach.

Branson said he was unharmed, but he said Lindstrand, 38, had suffered from extreme cold during 2½ hours he spent in the sea before rescue.

Their 21-streight-high balloon, the Virgin Atlantic flyer, ditched in the North Channel between Scotland and Ireland, according to Robin Bachelor, chief of flight operations in London.

The balloonists were picked up by his rescue aircraft and taken to hospital in Kilmarnock, 27 kilometres south of Glasgow.

Rupert Saunders, a spokesman at the Virgin Atlantic flyer's London Flight Control Centre, said there was photographic evidence that the balloon touched down in Northern Ireland.

"There are groove marks in a field and at that stage, Per Lindstrand and Richard Branson were on board... the world regulations state you must travel from one land mass to another and that the crew members must be the same when you land as when you took off. On that basis, we are claiming a trans-Atlantic record," he said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

More tickets to go on sale

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — The 1988 Winter Olympics organising committee says that 47,406 tickets to games events that were previously listed as sold-out will be offered to the public. The tickets were from a pool of 118,514 offered to about 38,000 people on a waiting list who had until June 30 to pay for the tickets to events such as the opening ceremonies. Committee spokesman Renee Smith said that only 60 per cent of the people on the waiting list bought tickets, which became available when the committee expanded the capacity of some venues and reduced the number of tickets going to VIPs and corporate sponsors.

Doping revelations embarrass athletics

BONN (R) — West German athletics were deeply concerned and embarrassed by revelations in a monthly magazine that seven leading athletes and trainers had accepted pills they believed to contain banned drugs, officials have said. National Athletics Federation (DLV) General Secretary Heiner Henze said: "We are deeply concerned from a moral point of view over this extraordinary embarrassing story." But the DLV said no disciplinary action would be taken because none of the athletes involved had taken the pills. The magazine Wiener reported in its July issue that one of its reporters had posed as a drugs company representative offering pills containing the banned substances amphetamine, ephedrine and pentyletetrazol.

Egypt confident of dominating games

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has pumped \$2 million and much effort into preparing athletes for the All-Africa Games in Kenya next month and officials are hoping the investment will pay off handsomely. "We feel confident of securing at least 100 gold medals and first place in the tournament," Saber Hassan of the Egyptian Olympic Committee told Reuters. "We attach great importance to these games to maintain our position as the top African country in sports," said another committee official.

Morales wins 100-metre butterfly

SANTA CLARA, California (R) — American Pablo Morales, the world record holder in the 100-metre butterfly, won the event on Friday night at the Santa Clara international swim meet in a time of 55.44 seconds, well off his world mark of 52.84, set in June last year. Morales also placed third in the 200-metre individual medley behind Canadians Gary Anderson and John Kelly. Morales' time of two minutes, 10.03 seconds was more than seven seconds off his U.S. record in that event.

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FOR RENT

Robins, Rorer agree to merge

RICHMOND, Virginia (R) — A.H. Robins Co. agreed Friday to attempt to merge with Rorer Group Inc for \$2.6 billion, a move that could help the troubled maker of the Dalkon Shield contraceptive survive massive liabilities.

The merger would establish two trusts with a total value of \$1.1 billion to pay Dalkon Shield-related claims.

Robins, which has been mired in bankruptcy proceedings since 1985, had expressed a desire to emerge from its troubles as an independent company. But analysts said its board probably concluded that a merger was the best way to deal with the Virginia-based firm's undetermined liabilities.

In judicial proceedings, about 320,000 claimants have said Robins' intrauterine birth control device caused a number of problems, including sterility, miscarriages and even deaths.

In a letter of intent, the two firms agreed to seek a definitive agreement by the end of the month to merge through a \$725 million stock swap. The deal is subject to approval by the U.S. bankruptcy court in Richmond, which is supervising Robins' reorganisation.

Rorer's merger plan would take care of about \$120 million owed by Robins to trade creditors.

Under the deal, Rorer would exchange each Robins share for a newly issued Rorer convertible share with voting rights, that would be valued at \$30. If Rorer's stock rose above \$48, it would issue 0.625 common shares for a 6.7 per cent stake.

Robins sold about 3.3 million Dalkon Shields in more than 80 countries between 1971 and 1974, including 2.2 million in the United States, before they were withdrawn from the market. Robins filed for bankruptcy in August 1985 largely to escape a flood of claims against the firm.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 5, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Arguments are likely if you do anything which might make people believe you are renegeing on a promise. This evening is a good time for romance and finding needed answers.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Try to remain uninvolved in other people's problems. You may be disappointed by a civic matter you're involved with.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Resolve a matter at work which has been troubling you by discussing it with a superior. Your energy is flowing high.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Forget recreation and focus on matters of importance. You will be wise in handling co-workers this week.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't let a home matter which is beyond your control upset you. You may be wasting your talents.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You will hear something this morning which could make you very angry, but remain calm. Repay social debts.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Avoid arguments which have no basis in fact. Handle important correspondence and make visits this evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Getting upset over unfulfilled wishes won't help matters. Get some needed advice from financial experts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A limitation which you've made on yourself must be overcome. Be more forceful in handling personal matters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Remaining near a loved one today will put you in better spirits. Show your appreciation for this help.

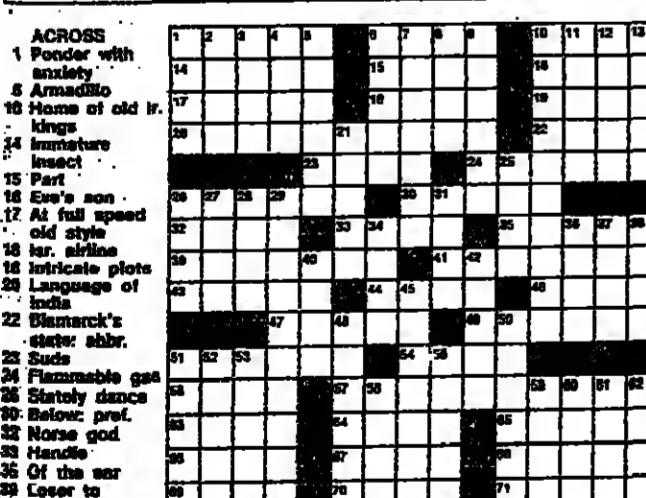
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) An important person may be irate this morning, so avoid this individual. Maintain domestic harmony.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Stick to what you know today. Trying something new would not be fruitful. Be cautious when asking for favors.

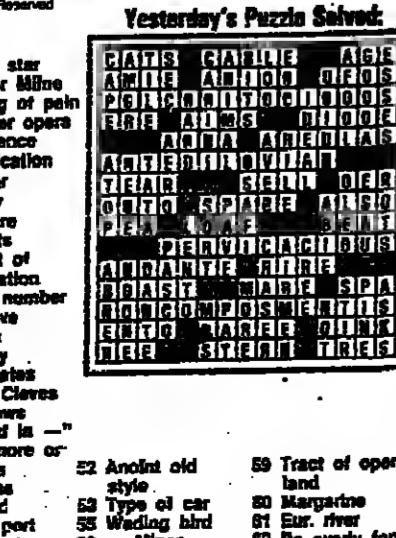
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't rely on your intuition this morning — it's on the blink. Be very cautious while driving or walking today.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she may have a hard time relating to people other than family while young, so teach your child to listen more and talk less. This will help develop an interest in others. Research or investigation would be a very good field for your progeny, so gear the education in that direction.

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Abu Dhabi reports '100 years' of oil reserves

ABU DHABI (AP) — Abu Dhabi's major offshore oil producer celebrated the 25th anniversary of its first petroleum shipment Saturday.

Andre de Bousingen, general manager of Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Co., said oil reserves were sufficient to continue present production levels "for at least the next 100 years."

Mr. De Bousingen refused to provide figures for reserves or production to reporters.

But he said ADMA-OPCO's current capacity was 570,000 barrels a day, 250,000 of which could be produced from Umm Al Shaif and 320,000 from Zakum fields which lie off Abu Dhabi.

"We are producing very much less than our capacity, due to the low quota allotted by OPEC to the United Arab Emirates," he said.

At the recent meeting in Vienna

of the 13-nation OPEC, the UAE's daily production was fixed at 984,000 barrels per day. Abu Dhabi, the leading oil producer among the seven emirates federated in the UAE, accounts for about 70 per cent of the output.

On the basis of the capacity figure he gave, the company's reserves for a century would stand at seven billion to 10 billion barrels, but the general manager said "we are more optimistic."

However, his technical assistant, Mohammad Shanti, said the company had "no plans" for new exploration or drilling activities over the next five years due to the slump on the world oil market.

He said seven exploratory fields would remain without any development plans for the next 10 years. They were considered as reserves for the company pending a political decision, he added.

In July 1962, the company ex-

ported the first quarter million barrels of oil it had struck. The UAE federation had not yet been born, and Abu Dhabi soon became one of the main Gulf oil producers within OPEC.

Mr. De Bousingen said the company, which struck Abu Dhabi's first barrel of oil, discovered hydrocarbons in seven new fields before it stopped exploration in 1985. Shareholders however had no plans to develop all their finds over the next five years "because they have enough production capacity."

ADMA-OPCO is currently owned by Abu Dhabi National Oil Co., 60 per cent, British Petroleum, 14½ per cent, TOTAL-Compagnie Francaise des Petroles, 13½ per cent, and Japan Oil Development Co., 12 per cent.

Abu Dhabi saw its revenues slashed by a third last year following the fall of oil prices.

U.S. president outlines 'economic bill of rights'

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Friday night marked the 211th anniversary of American independence by launching a budget reform initiative designed to curb growth in government

spending.

"We propose changes that will ensure 'truth in spending' by requiring every new programme to meet that test: if congressional passage of a new programme will require increased spending, it must be paid for at the same time, either with offsetting reductions in other programmes or new revenues."

He said such a requirement "might well temper the desire to over-regulate and over-legislate."

A third facet of President Reagan's plan would be a renewed effort to pare the size of the federal government by selling off some of its holdings and reducing some of its services.

"I will, by executive order, establish a bipartisan commission on privatisation to determine what federal assets and activities can and should be returned to the citizenry," President Reagan said.

The president also renewed his demand for "line item" veto power, which would allow him and his successors to reject objectionable parts of spending bills while preserving parts they favoured.

President Reagan is locked in a budget battle with the Democratic-led Congress, which recently approved a trillion-dollar budget for the 1988 financial year. The budget includes \$19.3 billion in unspecified tax hikes, gives the Defence Department less money than President Reagan sought, and would run \$108 billion in the red.

The deficit for the current financial year, which ends on Sept. 30, is expected to be about \$170 billion.

Tanzania apologises to Arabs for difficulty in repaying debts

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Tanzania has apologised to its Arab creditors for failing to repay development loans on time, the official news agency Shabata said Saturday.

"We really feel embarrassed to fail to honour our debts within the agreed periods," the agency quoted Finance Minister Cleopas Msuya as telling a visiting delegation of Arab aid organisations on Friday.

Msuya told representatives from the OPEC Fund, the Kuwait Fund, the Abu Dhabi Fund and the Arab Bank for

Development in Africa that Tanzania was expected to submit proposals for debt rescheduling in the near future.

Radio Tanzania said Mr. Mwinyi had received praise from the United States for its efforts to revamp Tanzania's economy with the help of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank loan agreements.

Speaking at the same meeting, President Ali Hassan Mwinyi called for greater understanding between international financial institutions and the developing world, Mr. Shabata said.

The radio said President Reagan's daughter Maureen had expressed Washington's backing for Mr. Mwinyi's economic recovery programme at a meeting with the Tanzanian leader Friday night.

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Seoul opposition to protest if prisoners are not freed

SEOUL, South Korea (Agencies) — The opposition threatened Saturday to stage new anti-government protests unless thousands of political prisoners were freed and their civil rights restored by next week.

Kim Young-Sam, president of the main opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), and his political ally, Kim Daegung, made the demand after a lengthy breakfast meeting.

"We will wait and see the results of a government move to release political prisoners by next week. All prisoners, without exception, should be freed," the men said in a joint statement.

They added that all moves toward political negotiations with the government would be shelved until after the expected release of political prisoners.

Later Saturday, about 50 women demanding the release of relatives held as political prisoners were seized by police during a protest. Many of them were shoved onto police buses to be taken away.

The women marched on the ruling party headquarters, hurling eggs and shouting "down with the military dictatorship." Scruffles broke out when plainclothes riot police moved in to break up the protests.

On Friday, thousands of radical students vowed to continue the anti-government protests that wracked the country more than 100 weeks in an effort to drive President Chun Doo-Hwan from

tical reprisal. However, they gave no indication whether they discussed their growing rivalry over the opposition party's candidacy in a presidential election expected late this year.

Meanwhile, protesters yelling anti-government slogans demanded death for five South Korean policemen who were sentenced to jail Saturday for torturing a student to death.

The pandemonium in court forced Chief Judge Sohn Jin-Gon to flee after he jailed the five for terms of up to 15 years.

As the prisoners entered the courtroom, dozens of spectators, mostly women relatives of jailed dissidents, shouted "execute the murderers" and attacked a line of about 50 guards, hitting out at them with fists and handbags.

A man in his 50s flung a chair, dashed towards the judge's seat and smashed a microphone.

Last week, chaos erupted in court after prosecutors asked for prison sentences for the five, who killed Park Chong-Chol, 21, by crushing his throat against the rim of a bathtub.

The policemen, members of a crack anti-Communist squad, repeatedly diked him into the tub to make him reveal the whereabouts of a fugitive dissident.

After Saturday's hearing, which lasted only 15 minutes, the demonstrators ringed but carrying the five policemen out and chanted "down with the dictator."

Barbie jailed for life

LYON, France (R) — Former Lyon Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie was convicted of crimes against humanity and jailed for life earlier Sunday for his actions during World War II.

Barbie, 73, stood with his head bowed as a judge in this south Lyon French town replied to charges of 340 charges,

including the deportation of Jewish children to Nazi gas chambers and the brutal repression of resistance fighters.

Barbie's flamboyant lawyer Jacques Verges immediately announced he would appeal against the sentence and verdict.

This trial began like a circus, with applause, and it has ended like a circus," he told reporters after the verdict was announced.

The nine jury members and three judges took six and a half hours to reach their decision after a two-month trial.

Judge Andre Cerdini told the packed court there were no extenuating circumstances. The decision was greeted with applause.

Handcuffs were slapped on Barbie, who was expelled from Bolivia to France in 1983, and he was led away to be driven to the nearby Saint-Joseph Prison, where he will serve his sentence.

Fights broke out after the trial between some of the hundreds of spectators who had gathered outside.

Deng: Zhao is now in charge

PEKING (AP) — Top leader Deng Xiaoping, who has expressed a desire to retire in the near future, said Saturday that Premier Zhao Ziyang now is in charge of all major matters in China.

Mr. Deng made his comments in a meeting with Bangladesh's President Husein Muhammad Ershad.

"Premier Zhao Ziyang now is in charge. He is in charge of all the affairs," Mr. Deng said.

In addition to the premiership, Mr. Zhao has been acting Communist Party general secretary since the Jan. 10 ouster of Hu

Takeshita emerges as front runner for premiership

TOKYO (R) — Former Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita emerged Saturday as the front runner in the race for Japan's premiership when he announced the formation of a major new faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

With 113 members, Mr. Takeshita's new faction is the largest group among the LDP's 445 members of parliament.

Mr. Takeshita and his supporters have broken away from the 141-member group led by Kakuei Tanaka, a move which split the end of 15 years of behind-the-scenes domination of the LDP by the former prime minister.

Mr. Tanaka, who faces charges from a 1976 bribery scandal, has often called the "kingmaker" and was instrumental in naming successive prime ministers, such as Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Mr. Tanaka is recovering from a stroke he suffered in February 1985.

Asked at a press conference if he would inherit Tanaka's political style, Mr. Takeshita said: "Among individuals, there are differences in political methods."

The launch of the new faction signals the start of the race for the premiership, with Mr. Takeshita competing against former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Prime Minister Nakasone's term as LDP president, which carries the premiership with it because of the LDP's majority in parliament, expires on Oct. 30.

The son of a sake brewer from the rural western prefecture of Shimane, Mr. Takeshita, 63, now holds the powerful post of LDP secretary-general.

He is known for his talent for fine maneuvering and an abhorrence of the open conflict that characterised Mr. Tanaka's generation.

By contrast, Mr. Miyazawa is known for his expertise in economic issues and open liberalism, while Mr. Abe prides himself on visiting 39 countries during his three years as foreign minister.

Party Vice-President Susumu Nakaido, who had been calling for Mr. Takeshita's expulsion from the Tanaka faction, has also said he would stand for the presidency. But political analysts say he is far from gathering the signatures from 50 LDP parliamentarians he needs to become an official candidate.

Alliances among party factions, rather than policy platforms of the individual candidates, have been crucial in previous LDP leadership elections.

Behind Mr. Takeshita's 113-member group is Miyazawa with 89, Mr. Nakasone with 87, Mr. Abe with 85 and 32 members under former International Trade and Industry Minister Toshio Komoto.

Mr. Nakaido heads a 15-strong faction made up of former Tanaka group supporters.

Gandhi rejects demand for mid-term elections

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Saturday rejected opposition demands for a national mid-term poll following a series of defeats for his Congress Party in state elections.

"It is hardly a demand worth commenting on," Mr. Gandhi told reporters at an airport news conference on his arrival from a three-day visit to Soviet Union. "There is no need for a mid-term election."

Opposition parties have stepped up calls for the dissolution of parliament and a mid-term poll since June 16, when Mr. Gandhi's party suffered a crushing defeat in the Haryana State Assembly election.

The Congress Party won only five of 87 contested seats in Haryana, a Hindi-speaking state that traditionally has supported the party. A coalition led by the agrarian Lok Dal Party secured 74, while Communists and independents took the rest.

It was the third state election defeat for the Congress this year and came as Mr. Gandhi and his government faced accusations of corruption in military contracts and policy failures.

Mr. Gandhi, 43, is midway through his five-year term as prime minister. He was made interim prime minister immediately after the Oct. 31, 1984, assassination of his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He won a landslide vote in the December 1984 general election and took office the following January.

"The constitution is very clear on the issue," he said of the mid-term polling demand. "Every time a ruling party loses power in a state, it does not mean that it should be followed by a mid-term poll."

Mr. Gandhi, accompanied by his Italian-born wife Sonia, travelled to the Soviet Union to open a Festival of India. Mr. Gandhi had three meetings with Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev during his stay.

The Soviet Union is a close ally, providing weapons and helping on many development projects.

Mr. Gandhi described his Moscow visit as opening a "new phase" in Indo-Soviet cooperation, particularly in science and technology.

He said he discussed major international issues with Mr. Gorbachev, including tensions between India and China along their disputed border.

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Colombo troops strike at rebel base, kill 5

COLOMBO (R) — Police commandos killed five rebels when they raided a guerrilla camp in eastern Sri Lanka Friday, the government said Saturday.

A statement said the special task force team recovered rifles and ammunition after destroying the jungle base in Batticaloa district.

The camp belonged to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the group in the forefront of a four-year Tamil rebellion for an independent state in the north and east.

The statement said a civilian was killed Friday in crossfire between rebels and a security force patrol at Udipiddy in the northern Jaffna region.

In the eastern districts, where Tamils constitute about one-third of residents, there are only a few candidates — all Sinhalese or Muslims, officials said.

Meanwhile the Election Commission has reopened nominations for 114 local government posts after a first round drew no takers for the controversial poll.

Election Commissioner Chandananda De Silva announced the "second nominations" process

late Friday.

"I don't remember this happening before," Mr. De Silva said. "But a second nomination is available under our election laws."

The reopening of nominations was an apparent effort to pursue President Junius Jayewardene's decision to hold local elections despite a boycott by the five major opposition parties and rejection of the voting call by Tamil militants.

Initial nominations closed Friday, with no candidates registering in the rebel-dominated northern Jaffna peninsula, the north western Mannar district and north eastern Mullaitivu district.

In the eastern districts, where Tamils constitute about one-third of residents, there are only a few candidates — all Sinhalese or Muslims, officials said.

All these regions are wracked by a Tamil separatist insurgency, and political observers say fair elections are impossible as long as the civil war continues. They also point out that thousands of families have fled the fighting and have no way to vote in their home districts.

COLUMNS 7G8

Experts urge action to save forests

BELLAGIO, Italy (R) — International forestry experts have warned that destruction of tropical forests has devastating world food production and urged major reforms to protect them. The experts, who included government ministers and representatives of major development aid agencies, said after a two-day conference that policy reforms were urgently needed from governments and development agencies. They said tropical forests were vanishing at a rate of 11 million hectares (42,500 square miles) a year and said their loss constituted "one of the most serious environmental threats of our time." In a statement, the experts said the loss of tropical forests was having a "devastating effect" on food output, fuelwood supplies and water resources in developing countries. The statement said deforestation was causing soil erosion, undermining agriculture and exacerbating rural poverty.

Murderer returns to scene of crime

LONDON (R) — A child murderer once dubbed Britain's most evil man has returned to the remote moorland where he buried his victims 24 years ago still, according to one of his warders, a monster who projects an aura of evil. Ian Brady, who with his lover Myra Hindley was jailed for life in 1966 for the torture and murder of children, returned to the moors under close police guard to help pinpoint the place where he had buried one of his victims. Brady and Hindley were each found guilty of torturing and killing two children whose bodies were found buried on remote Saddleworth Moor in a case whose brutality still haunts the British consciousness. Brady alone was found guilty of a third murder. Police have maintained an open file on two other youngsters reported missing at the time whose bodies were never found. The trial heard chilling tape recordings made by Brady of the victims' last moments. One little girl was heard pleading: "Don't ... please God, help me. I want my mummy." On Friday, nearly 48 hours after a body of one of the missing children was found by detectives digging in the peat of Saddleworth Moor, Brady was taken at his own insistence to help pinpoint the site of the second missing child's corpse.

Man charged with killing parents

DARIEN, Connecticut (AP) — A young man who had repeatedly argued with his adoptive parents erupted in anger when they refused to accept a collect call, then beat them to death and set them afire, authorities said. Patrick Campbell, 20, was arrested and charged with two counts of felony murder in the bludgeoning deaths of Kenneth Campbell, a 56-year-old stockbroker, and Anna May Campbell, 59. Superior court Judge Kathryn Emmet set bond at \$500,000. Campbell entered no plea. The bodies of his parents were found ablaze on Wednesday by his 23-year-old daughter Jill in the back yard of their home in this wealthy New York City suburb. Miss Campbell picked up a hose to douse the bodies, said Police Chief John Jordan. Campbell was arrested following a 24-kilometre car chase with state police through several western Connecticut towns, and later confessed to the killings, Jordan said.

University agog over litter of 47 baby boas

OTTAWA (AP) — Carleton University is all a-simmer over Lady Macbeth, its resident boa constrictor, which gave scientist a surprise — 47 baby boas. All are reported doing well after the unexpected, half-hour delivery. But the scientists were caught off guard because her ladyship hasn't been in company with his lordship for more than a year. And even then the male boa was seen only to cover in the corner of their cage without, it was believed, any amorous involvement with the new mother. Andre Mott, curator of the university's vivarium, says it's unlikely such contact would have been missed: "In some cases it's a 12-hour ritual." But it seems lady boas can go without males for more than three years in some cases by storing sperm from a previous encounter. The gestation period for a snake is six months. Boas can have up to 100 offspring at once. It's the second litter for Lady Macbeth, who weighs in at about 17 kilograms and measures almost 1.8 metres. At seven years of age, the mother has reached half her potential length. The boa constrictor, native to southern Mexico and parts of Central and South America, is on the list of endangered species, Mott said.

Rare birds bred by artificial insemination

PEKING (R) — A husband-and-wife team of ornithologists at Peking Zoo have bred two black-necked cranes by artificial insemination, a world first for this rare and endangered species, the China Daily newspaper has reported. After four years of experiments, a female black-necked crane laid seven eggs in late May. Two hatched this week and zoo officials said three of the nest were still in incubation. The two chicks were healthy and learning to peck at worms in the zoo grounds. The newspaper quoted Chinese scientists as saying only about 800 black-necked cranes survived in the wild in China, mainly in western provinces, with another 20 or so in India. One reason they were on the verge of extinction was that chicks were quarrelsome, so that often only one of a pair survived, it said. It added that natural mating often failed to fertilise eggs.

China's one-child policy crumbles

PEKING (R) — The collapse of the one-child policy in parts of the Chinese countryside threatens to wreck efforts to hold back China's huge population to 1.2 billion by the year 2000, an official newspaper has reported. Government departments are arguing over the gravity of the situation as officials seek to avoid the blame for a slackening of the strict policy introduced in the 1970s. Western experts in Peking said. Despite the government's ideal target of only one child per family, State Statistical Bureau figures show that 40 per cent of rural couples have produced three or more children in the last few years, the China Daily said. Peasant families are defying the policy in many areas, while some local authorities have relaxed rules resented by traditionally minded rural people who want big families and prefer sons to daughters.

Couple claim \$20 million lottery prize

HARRISBURG, PA. (R) — A Pennsylvania lottery ticket worth \$20.4 million was cashed in by a Lancaster couple who waited more than two weeks before claiming their winnings so they could get legal and financial advice. The winning ticket came up in Super 7, a game in which players try to match seven of 11 numbers randomly drawn from 1 to 99. Lottery officials said the ticket was \$20.4 million as they presented Glenn and Dorothy Bannister with the first of 26 annual checks for \$626,682. "We felt from the beginning this was a gift from God," said Bannister, 53, a high school Spanish teacher. His wife, Dorothy, 54, said she selected the winning numbers at random. It was one of five tickets she had bought for the June 10 drawing. Bannister said he planned to keep his job and he and his wife would keep their home so long as others respected their privacy.

Burglars loot Peron's tomb

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Burglars entered the tomb of former President Gen. Juan Peron and stole his uniform cap, sword and an Argentine flag that covered his coffin, officials said. Vice President Victor Martinez called the burglary "absolutely despicable" and